Abstract

A system and method for enabling a program to subscribe to data and/or publish data, e.g., in order to receive and display data from a data source in a graphical user interface (GUI) element or in order to write data associated with a GUI element to a data target. In one embodiment, a developer of a program may specify a data source and/or data target during development of the program, e.g., via a URL. If a data source is specified, the method may operate to automatically determine a GUI element operable to display (or otherwise indicate) data received from the data source and may automatically include the GUI element in the program's graphical user interface (GUI) and automatically configure the GUI element to receive and display data from the specified data source during execution of the program. In the preferred embodiment, the developer is not required to specify any source code for the program in performing this configuration. Many programs require data to be exchanged with various types of data sources and targets, but this data exchange is often a difficult task for developers. Thus, various embodiments of the invention may greatly benefit users by enabling complicated exchange of data to be performed by simply specifying a data source and/or target to associate with a GUI element. Another embodiment of the invention enables the implementation of a data viewer program which, when executed, enables an end user to specify a data source, e.g., via a URL, and view data received from the data source, wherein the end user may specify any of various types of data sources, any of various types of data may be received from the data sources, and any of various types of GUI elements may be dynamically displayed to allow the end user to view the received data.